

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and method for operating a plurality of eVOAs in an optical network is provided. The system comprises a number of eVOAs, each eVOA coupled to one or more optical taps and connected to a microcontroller. The microcontroller comprises a monitor 5 signal processing controller for measuring the power of the optical signal at the eVOAs; a scheduler for continuously cycling and checking the eVOAs operating attenuations; a microprocessing controller for determining, setting, adjusting and updating the eVOA operating attenuation and a means for communications between the microprocessor and the other controller within the system. The microcontroller cycles through the plurality of 10 eVOAs and controls one eVOA at a time according to a predetermined method of the eVOA operation. Individual eVOAs may be controlled according to the same or different methods of controlling operations thereof as required